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or to the refutation of opposing theories. The careful arrangement of the subject, the clear statement of the points in dispute, and the abundance of illustrations, will make the work accessible to a larger class of readers, than are usually interested in metaphysical inquiries. If curiosity is rather incited, than gratified, by its perusal, we presume the author will by no means deem himself without reward for his trouble.

7.—*Outlines of Anatomy and Physiology; translated from the French of H. MILNE EDWARDS, Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Natural History at the Royal College of Henry the Fourth, and at the Central School of Arts and Manufactures in Paris, by J. F. W. LANE, M. D. Boston : C. C. Little & J. Brown. 8vo. pp. 312.*

THIS book is not designed chiefly for the medical profession, either pupils or adepts, but for those innocent persons who are too modest to read a real doctor's book, or who are scared by the hard words in which doctors are supposed to clothe their thoughts. Its purpose, however, is different from the "Physiology" of Dr. Coates, which was noticed in our last number, inasmuch as that is intended for the school-room, while this claims a place in the library or parlour. If some knowledge of the functions of living bodies is to constitute a part of a course of general education, and few will doubt that it should, then of course books must be prepared for the purpose ; and such books will, according to their intrinsic value, possess their full share of utility. But we are not quite sure that such *expurgated* editions are really demanded for full grown men and women, in any of the departments of medical knowledge. Physicians will not read them ; for besides the annoyance from frequent explanations of familiar terms, the knowledge they communicate, if not too superficial, is necessarily too general, to be of use to them. And as for others, they whose delicacy or morals are so fragile as to be endangered by legitimate scientific works, had better keep out of harm's way by shutting themselves up in a dark room, and not read at all ; and the fear of technical phrases in any sensible medical book is a bugbear that will frighten nobody that has sense enough to read any thing.

Still, it must be acknowledged, that works on physiology are in fact little read, except by physicians. It might be supposed that educated men would acquire a knowledge of the phenomena of living bodies, at least equal to their knowledge of other

branches of general science. But it is not so. Nothing is more common than to hear public speakers, clergymen, and lawyers, commit blunders in speaking of these subjects, of which they would be greatly ashamed in any other. It may be that a book like this will come advantageously to their aid. Written, as it is, expressly for their use, made attractive by its general appearance and style of execution, and avoiding all topics that can be supposed offensive to the most fastidious, it may obtain a reading, where other works on the subject have failed to secure attention.

It is certainly well adapted to its object. Although too general in its descriptions to answer well the purposes of the medical student, it is far from being a superficial work. It gives enough of anatomical delineation to furnish an outline of the general structure of the human body, and to render intelligible the explanations of the several functions. In doing this, the author addresses himself to intelligent educated persons generally, avoiding, on the one hand, that simplicity or poverty of language that is thought to be suited only to those whose education is in progress, and on the other either abstaining from or explaining such terms as are peculiar to medical men. The style is clear and intelligible. The English version, of which alone we speak, is good, pleasant reading, although, like most translations, the idiom of the original language occasionally appears in the structure of the sentences, and sometimes, though rarely, in the use of words. The translator would have done well, we think, to have rendered into English the terms of measure, instead of adopting the *metre*, and *litre*, with their compounds, of the original. It was all, and more than all, that even Napoleon in the height of his power could do, to compel the French nation to lay aside their accustomed designations of weight and measure, and adopt a new and greatly improved system. It is too much to expect us strangers to learn to understand them; and quite too much to suppose that casual readers will take the trouble to turn to the notes for a key to explain them, and then make a calculation of their value in each case. This is what the translator should have done for them. Besides, it gives a foreign air to the book, and every time it occurs, reminds the reader that he has but a translation before him.

After all, these are small blemishes. The translation is, on the whole, decidedly a good one; and the work itself abounds in sound instruction and useful information. The explanations of the several functions are, in general, in accordance with the opinions of the best physiologists; and in most instances they include the results of the latest discoveries and observations.

This last circumstance is of more importance than would readily be believed by one who had given no attention to the subject. The phenomena of living bodies are produced by a combination of physical and chemical operations, with actions that are purely vital. It follows that discoveries in either of these branches of science, may have a direct bearing upon that of physiology, as well as those which are the direct result of researches upon the animal body itself. In all these departments of learning, investigations have been carried on with great activity and success, in the last few years. Those physicians whose reading is somewhat old, would be surprised to find how much they have to learn, of what is familiar to the more fresh investigation of the active inquirers of the profession. In this point of view the volume before us may be a valuable acquisition to some physicians. It gives a condensed view of the present state of physiological knowledge, which they may not have the leisure or the industry to obtain from more elaborate works, and in the correctness of which they may place a confidence not always due to extra-professional works.

The book is the more attractive, that the mechanical execution is excellent, vastly superior to that of most works of the sort issued from the press in this country, and compares well with the best specimens of American printing. The pictorial illustrations, which are numerous, are in the best style of wood-engraving ; and the printing, paper, and binding, in short the whole execution, are such as to render it a comfort to the eye that reads it. We are grateful to every man that will help to sustain the art of printing among us, in these degenerate days of cheapness and consequent meanness of execution ; and we shall be truly glad if both the publishers and the translator of this work find, in the sale of it, an ample remuneration for their enterprise and good taste.

8.—*Sonnets*, by SIR JOHN HANMER, Baronet. London : Edward Moxon. 8vo. pp. 62.

THE present age is called an unpoetical one ; and if, by this, it is meant that there is a dearth of great poets, the saying is true enough. The soil was taxed too hard by the last generation not to be allowed to lie fallow, for half a century, at least. But in another sense, the age is far from being unpoetical, since the very elements of poetry enter more or less into every thing that comes from the press. Not a book of travels, an article of a periodical, a sermon, or a speech, but shows